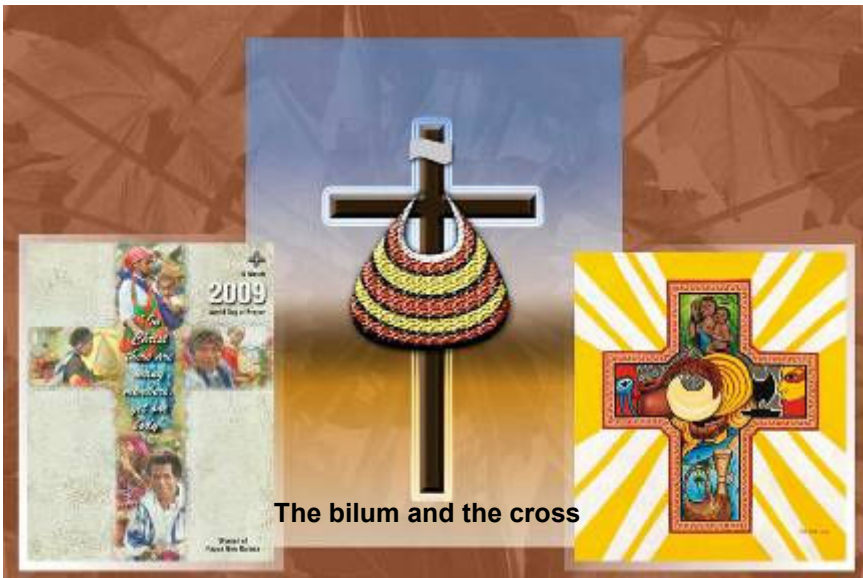




INSPIRE



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 6 March 2009



The bilum and the cross

Papua New Guinea 2009

In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SCO 01680

CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH

Sun 1	10 am	Sacrament of Communion
	6.30 pm	
Wed 4	10.30 am	Midweek Service with Sacrament of Communion
Sun 8	10 am	Morning Worship followed by Sacrament of Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed 11	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 15	10 am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Tues 17	7 pm	Trustees Meeting
	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
Wed 18	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 22	10 am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
	11 am	Church AGM
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed 25	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 29	10 am	Morning Worship
	3.15 pm	Craigielea
	6.30 pm	REJOICE

APRIL

Sun 5	10 am	Palm Sunday with Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship followed by Sacrament of Communion
Wed 8	10.30 am	Midweek Easter Service
Thurs 9	7 pm	Maundy Thursday Service in Church
Sun 12	8.30 am	Sunrise Service
	10 am	Easter Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship

Flower Calendar

MARCH

- 1 Mrs A Thompson (Vestibule)
- 8 Mrs Parkinson
- 15 Mrs J Anderson
- 22 Mrs M Craighead
- 29 Mrs C Boyd



PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is **THURSDAY 19 MARCH**

Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to:
rodody@mccollassociates.com
office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends

On the whole I like to encourage more of an outward attitude to our living than an inward one. It can become very inhibiting to our sense of spirit as an individual and our sense of mission as a congregation when we become overly focussed on ourselves; when our contemplations become immersed on self-feelings and self-preservation.

However, if there is ever a season of the church year when a digression from this way of thinking is allowable, it is the season of Lent. Indeed I would argue that it is very helpful for us to spend some time pondering our existence and objectives with inward focus. Clearly, to be effective in the outward expression of spirit and faith, we need to be soundly prepared within.

From Ash Wednesday to Easter itself the Church worldwide recognises the value of looking inward. Traditionally for some the season is a time of fasting and prayer; the mood can seem sombre and reflective and the colour of the season (like Advent) being purple encourages a sense of penitence and assessment.

Lent also leads us to the possibility of looking forward to doing things in a new way. As we approach Easter itself the encouragement becomes the focussing of our wills and our energies on a longing for God's presence and a desire to live in His ways.

I would encourage each one of us to use Lent and the prescribed focus of the scriptures of the season to spark a time of assessment within our living as we ponder on the goals we set for ourselves and the type of witness we make as a congregation.

We are called to witness to the risen Christ in every aspect of our lives, witnessing to God's presence in the world and responding to God's call to Discipleship.

Best Wishes
Keith

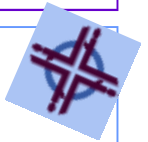
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER **Friday 6 March 2009**

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women around the world affirm their faith in Jesus Christ, share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women are encouraged

- ◆ to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation.
- ◆ to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures.
- ◆ to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them.
- ◆ to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.



Letter from Alisa

Dear Friends

In light of the recent events at Queens Cross Church and Aberdeen Presbytery, events which have appeared in our newspapers, entered our conversations, and hopefully wrestled in our minds, events all sparked by the calling of an openly gay minister, I have been asked frequently about how the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) is progressing in resolving the same issue. So, I thought I would take this time to explain the moves being made in the PCUSA, moves to love all of God's children while remaining faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Our General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meets every other year in the summer to review and establish national and global mission programs, to lead interfaith and ecumenical dialogue, to promote spiritual renewal and evangelism, to work for peace and justice, to reflect on social issues such as hunger, mental illness, immigration, and other special groups and to lead the church in providing disaster relief. These are only a few of the ministries carried out through the work of the General Assembly, similar to the Church of Scotland.

In addition, the PCUSA General Assembly has responsibility for maintaining the constitution of the church, which includes our two governing books, the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions. The General Assembly reviews recommendations from Presbyteries to amend the Book of Order and sends any recommendations approved by a majority vote of the Assembly to the Presbyteries for their consideration and vote. Any change in the Book of Order must be approved by the General Assembly and then by a majority of our 173 Presbyteries, which span the whole of the United States.

Over the past thirty years, there have been discussions at every level of the church, from local congregations to the General Assembly, about ordination standards for elders, deacons and ministers of word and sacrament. Many of these discussions have centered on the question of whether or not practising and self-affirming gays and lesbians are eligible for ordination to church office.

In 1996, the General Assembly and a majority of Presbyteries approved amending the constitution's section on ordination to include what is commonly known as the "fidelity and chastity amendment," which requires that those called to office must practise "fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman or chastity in singleness." Prior to this amendment, the constitution did not single out any particular aspect of morality such as sexual behavior, but spoke more generally by saying that those called to office should live a life that is a manifestation of the gospel in the world. This summer, the PCUSA General Assembly acted to recommend to the Presbyteries an amendment to the Book of Order that would return to more general language about the moral standards of those called to ministry.

Continued on Page 5



The proposed amendment states that those called to office

"...pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church."

For this amendment to be passed, a majority of the 173 PCUSA Presbyteries must approve it. The amendment can then become part of the Book of Order. This might seem like a minor change, but this difference of wording has been a result of a task force committee formed eight years ago called Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church. The goal of the task force has been to bring together people of opposing sides to study and prayerfully discern how to maintain peace, unity and purity within our denomination. If you would like to read their report it can be found at www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity

For the Church of Scotland, the PCUSA, and the church universal, this is a complicated issue with a long history. It is important that we deliberate prayerfully, thoughtfully and respectfully on this issue. Christians in good conscience with good theological and biblical reasoning may disagree with one another.

We have much to learn from listening with appreciation to each other.

So, for the next two years Presbyteries will be voting on the wording of this amendment.

But, what is important for the PCUSA, the Church of Scotland, and all believers in Christ is to seek love over hate, peace over division and respect over contempt as we prayerfully discern God's calling for the church and all her people in today's world.

Grace and Peace,
Alisa Ferlicca



**Retiring
Collection**



There will be a Retiring Collection at the close of both communion services on Sunday 1 March.

The proceeds will be sent to Aberdeen Presbytery to help fund its work in Malawi.

THE GUILD MARCH

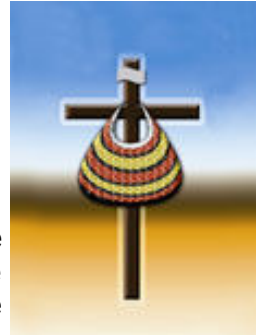


- 6 World Day of Prayer
Holburn West Church
- 10 Salvation Army Choir
- 24 What's Next? and AGM

ALL WELCOME

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 6th March 2009



In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body

The service this year has been prepared by the women of Papua New Guinea. The graphic they have chosen puts two symbols together: the cross and the bilum. The bilum is used by both men and women in a multitude of ways for carrying everything from babies to heavy loads. Where cultures are so diverse, this simple string bag is common to many. The women of Papua New Guinea place the bilum on the cross. They seek a unity where they are not merely held together as though they were gathered into a string bag. They seek a vibrant unity where the several thousand separate communities are of one heart and soul.

In Papua New Guinea we are many and we are diverse. Our 800 languages represent as many cultures and traditions. Our rugged landscape can isolate us from one another but the love of God empowers us to embrace one another and to embrace you, our brothers and sisters around the world.”

The service for the South-West area of Aberdeen will be held in Holburn West Parish Church at 2pm.

Services will also be held at the following venues throughout the area:

St. Mary's R.C. Cathedral, Huntly Street	3.00pm
Peterculter Parish Church of Scotland	7.30pm
Stoneywood Church of Scotland	7.30pm
Cove New Development Church of Scotland	7.30pm
Midstocket Church of Scotland	7.30pm
Northfield Church of Scotland	7.30pm
Torry United Free Church	7.30pm
Woodside Parish Church of Scotland	2.30pm
Danestone Congregational Church	7.30pm
















A traveller in a strange country, walking with no map comes to a crossroads where a signpost has been knocked down.

How can he find his way without asking anyone for directions?

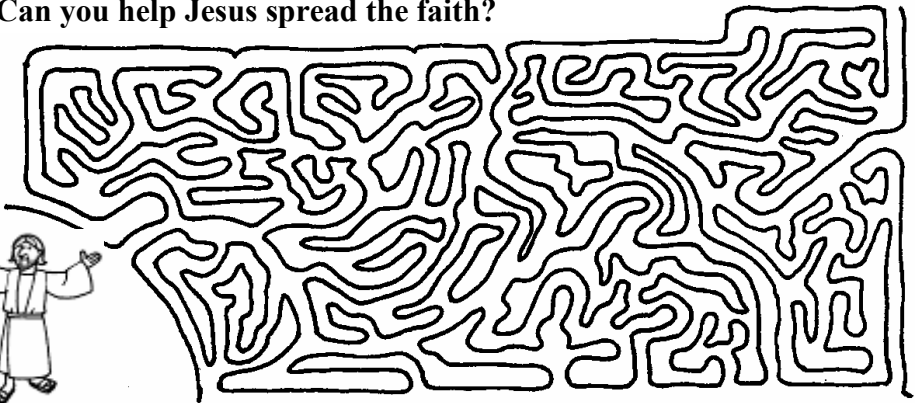


USING THE CODE, MATCH THE LETTERS TO REVEAL THE MESSAGE HIDDEN BELOW:-

												
I	O	F	J	L	E	R	B	U	A	S	D	,



Can you help Jesus spread the faith?





How many differences can you spot?

The THINGS they SAY!

'Fast days are the days
when you have to
eat in a hurry.'



Why do we say Amen and not Awoman?
Because we sing him and not hers!

**121938161
187828984
215442670
258901049
270127824**

**298561129
373954020
417262383
530289165
573762717**

**593734058
622992359
731874334
751287578
770017983**

**713213284
825861951
842522382
964582595
989893113**

Locate the position of the numbers in the box above on the grid below. You may travel in any direction, but the lines have to be straight and no numbers are missed out.

**5 5 9 3 3 1 2 1 7 9 8 5 2 7 9
5 2 1 7 3 8 5 1 2 8 5 3 5 0 6
1 7 1 8 1 4 3 9 5 6 0 1 0 5 0
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4 2 7 3 9 8 2 1 3 4 5 1 0 7 0
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8 1 0 3 8 1 3 0 4 1 3 6 1 7 6**

February's solution: Knock-out competitions run on powers of 2, so a qualification round of 5 matches is required to eliminate 5 players, leaving 32 players who play 16 matches, 16 who play 8 matches and so on. There will be 36 matches in total as all knock-out competitions need one match fewer than the number of entrants.

In Memoriam

Ian Davidson

Ian was a man who made a huge amount of his life, who was gifted beyond measure and who contributed a huge amount to others.

Ian was born in San Francisco, arriving in Aberdeen in the early 1930's. He attended Aberdeen Grammar where he was Dux. He went on to Aberdeen University to study for a BSC and Bachelor of Law.

After working for a while with Messrs Paul and Williamson, Solicitors he changed path and entered the teaching profession. He taught at various schools, most notably Rosehearty Secondary School where his friend Max was deputy headmaster. Ian retired in 1983. Those who worked with Ian would testify to him being a gifted, highly intelligent and caring individual.

Ian was a long-time Elder of the church in Mannofield. Not only did he carry out his duties as an Elder with absolute dedication, but he also carried forward the work of the church in other ways too. He diligently marked 'Young Worshipers League Cards' at the Church door and most importantly for many years ran the camera club. In that capacity he managed to pass on his enthusiasm and skill in photography to others including many of the young people of the church and of the Youth Organisations.

Ian will be a huge loss to this congregation. His influence reached far and wide and Mannofield Church has benefited hugely from his involvement in congregational life.



TRAIDCRAFT

Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February –14 March 2009

Prayer

*May we live as Jesus would live,
May we speak the words Jesus would speak,
May we do what Jesus would do,
May we pray as Jesus would pray,
May we trust as Jesus would trust,
May we love as Jesus would love.
Amen.*



Proverbs 13:23 says A poor man's field may produce abundant food but injustice sweeps it away.

LENT

Lent is the period of forty days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the forty days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.



The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do significantly) use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favourite foods or smoking. Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

Why 40 days?

40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

- ◆ In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.
- ◆ The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- ◆ Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.
- ◆ Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for His ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

Why is it called Lent?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

The colour purple

Purple is the symbolic colour used in some churches throughout Lent, for drapes and altar frontals.

Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the colour associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

ASPIRE

(AS-PIRE) N. 1. TO HAVE A GREAT AMBITION; DESIRE STRONGLY,
2. TO STRIVE TOWARD AN END; AIM AT, 3. TO SOAR.

What is Aspire?

Aspire is a New Programme at Mannofield, which includes many new exciting events for all those interested. It is for young adults and those who feel young at heart. It is for those in whom these events spark an interest and for those who are interested in meeting new people. ASPIRE is for you!

CALENDAR

Book Club

1st & 3rd Wed. of Month 7:45-9:00 in Centenary Hall
Reading: Shane Claiborne's The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical (Feb18: Ch 1-6, March4: Ch7-13 then, Barbra Kingsolver's The Poisonwood Bible (Apr 4: Book 1-3, Apr 18: Book 4-6)

Young Women's Group

2nd Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:30 in CH
A social and spiritual group for the women of Mannofield Church.
EVENTS: March- Take-out meal and social; April- Rock-Climbing; May- Wine Tasting; June- Walk and Meal Out

Massage and Meditation

4th Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:00 in CH
An event for women of all ages to come together and learn meditative practices for the body and the soul.

Theology on Tap

4th Friday of the Month 8:00
Come together for a social gathering at a local pub, grab a pint, food and spend evening musing over theology and getting to know people.

For more information please contact

The Church Office at office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk or 310087

Alisa Ferlicca at alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com or 07838835778

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Belleplate Choir



New talent is being sought. We are able to take people of various musical abilities. Meetings will be on Wednesday mornings at 11.15am.

If you are interested please contact Anne Thomson or Alisa.

Easter Craft Fair

in aid of
Church Funds



Saturday 21 March 12noon - 4pm

Mannofield Church Halls

All types of crafts
Freshly made pancakes

Donations of chocolate for the chocolate tombola, bathroom items (i.e. Bubble bath, soaps, etc) for the bathroom tombola and bottles for the bottle stall will be gratefully accepted.

Tables, priced £15 can be booked through Gwen Sutherland Tel 311146

BOOK REVIEW

My choice this month is "Bible Stories" retold by David Kossoff published by Collins in 1968. The foreword to this edition is by Dr William Barclay.



Mr Kossoff was asked by the BBC to retell some of the stories from the Bible for television and then radio and these are the result. They are still as fresh today as they were then. Mr Goldie has read some of them to us in church.

Sometimes we find the Bible difficult to understand but reading them in simpler language can more clearly reveal God's message to us.

I would like to point out that all the books I've reviewed are available in the Church Library which is in the Bride's Room. The books are available to borrow whenever the church is open.

Edna Cromarty

5 A-Side Football with the Minister Calling all Men!



I thought it might be good see if we could organise a group who would enjoy a regular game of football. The aim is to get this up and running in the month of April and as a starter idea (based on my own Diary) I thought about trying for a Thursday night at 'Goals' between 9pm and 10pm. We would need a pool of people interested so that given unavailability and injury we might still have 10 for a decent kick-a-boot. If you are interested then please give me a call or preferably an e-mail.

I will be in touch in due course with a suggestion of how we can work it.

Keith Blackwood – minister@mannofield.org.uk or 01224 315748

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

8 February Dylan Matthew McKay

New Members

Anne Gordon
Joan Petrie
Fiona Robertson

Deaths

19 January Mr Gordon Webster
24 January Mrs Anne Cormack
28 January Mrs Sheila Sutherland

Disjunctions

Mr William & Mrs Alice Morrison

Change of Address

Mrs Ruth Main
Mrs Sheila Yule

40th Aberdeen Brownies

**What are the Friday Brownies
Doing?**

Changing the World

They are participating in WWFs "One Planet Challenge" looking at the key threats to orang-utans, writing to the local MP, adopting a polar bear, looking at energy consumption, having a candle lit story and hopefully at the end of the year putting on a "One Planet Future" musical.

All girls aged 7-10 are welcome to join the fun on Fridays 6 pm until 7.30 pm in Mannofield Church hall.



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead



A PRAYER FOR SPRING

Hoping For Spring

Dear Lord, our Father and our Friend, may we speak to You about the weather? Although the children love the novelty of the snow, for many of us walking on the uneven frozen snow on the pavement is a hazardous adventure. Help us Lord to go safely.

We apologise for complaining for we know that our city needs the winter snowfall to sustain our river water-supply in the summer.

Thank you for the promise of Spring. Already the valiant snowdrops daily lift their heads to let You know they have heard Your prompting.

We give thanks, Good Shepherd, for the life of our church. At Advent, when one of the candles was being lit, the church was absolutely silent. Then an anxious little voice was heard from the body of the Kirk, "Take Care".

Father, help us to do that and in the sense also of taking care to smile, to greet each other, to remember folks' names and really to care what is happening to them in their daily lives.

Thank you for our friends, the chance to talk, the chance to laugh. Lord, we pray for those among us who are facing hard times, too much month at the end of the money, illness in their family, marriage falling apart.

Father, let our prayers enable them to cope without bitterness. Grant them your peace.

Dear Lord we trust You, and we commit our lives to You. Help us to accept whatever tomorrow brings, like it or not. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN
Margaret Malloch

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Associate Minister	Rev. Alisa Ferlicca alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com	Mobile 07838 835778
Youth Worker	Stiubhart MacChoille stiubhart@fsmail.net	481359
Secretary	Gill Terry office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson, nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 M 07850 733402
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson Nnikibob@aol.com	743484
Website	www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk	

Mannofield Church Well



Prior to July 2008 I knew very little about the history of the well. I have since learned that it was set up by the Christian Aid Committee and that it was built by Frazer Simpson. It had been expected that the well would be in existence for a few months only- that was more than 12 years ago!

The donations steadily build up and in December 2008 a cheque for £118 was sent to Christian Aid so that they could buy, as detailed in their Present Aid catalogue:-

10 Hula Hoops	£ 19
Mosquito nets for 3 families	26
8 Turkeys	35
250 Tree Saplings	<u>38</u>
Total	<u>£118</u>

The "thank-you" letter from Christian Aid is on the Christian Aid notice board and cards with more details are on the roof of the well.

Thank you once again for the donations, we are making our way to collect the next £100.

Elizabeth Paterson